

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) An apparatus₁ comprising:
a body;
a keyboard upon said body including at least one key having at least two different functions ~~associated with the key~~, a first function if the key is activated with a terminating hand member of ~~the~~ a user's right hand and a second different function if the key is activated with a terminating hand member of the user's left hand; and
a detection mechanism configured to detect one or more movements of at least a portion of at least one of the user's two hands toward the key to indicate, prior to an activation of the key by one of the terminating members, which one of said first function and said second function is to be associated with the activation, wherein the detection mechanism is configured to indicate~~ing that~~ the first function is to be associated with the activation when movement of a right-to-left movement of a terminating member of the right hand toward the key is detected and the detection mechanism is configured to indicate~~ing that~~ the second function is to be associated with the activation when movement of a left-to-right movement of a terminating member of the left hand toward the key is detected, ~~said detection mechanism being equipped to monitor movement of at least a portion of at least one of the user's two hands toward the key.~~
2. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 1₁ wherein said detection mechanism comprises a camera.
3. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 2₂ ~~wherein said detection mechanism further comprises~~ a logic configured to temporally analyze a plurality of images from said camera, wherein said images include~~ing~~ positions information of the~~said~~ user's terminating hand member that allows determination of the right-to-left or left-to-right movements.

4. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 2, wherein said camera is integrated with said body.
5. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said detection mechanism includes at least one terminating hand member sensor.
6. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 5, wherein said terminating hand member sensor is ~~equipped~~ configured to detect when a ~~corresponding~~ another terminating hand member is in a non-use position.
7. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said detection mechanism comprises at least one pressure sensor.
8. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said at least one pressure sensor ~~comprises a sensor to~~ is configured to detect an increased inward pressure on a side of said body, wherein the processor is configured to determine the right-to-left or left-to-right movements of the user's terminating hand members based at least in part on such increased inward pressure on the said side of the body corresponding to said determined terminating hand member.
9. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said detection mechanism comprises at least one motion detector configured to monitor right-to-left or left-to-right movements of at least a portion of at least one of the user's two hands toward the key.
10. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 9, wherein said motion detector is configured to detect right-to-left or left-to-right motions associated with a key activation.
11. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the apparatus is a selected one of a wireless mobile phone and a personal digital assistant.
12. (Currently Amended) An apparatus comprising:

a body;

a keyboard upon said body including a key having two different functions associated with the key, a first function if the key is activated by a terminating hand member of a user's right hand, and a second different function if the key is activated by a terminating hand member of a the user's left hand; and

a camera configured to monitor movement of a user's terminating hand members with respect to said keyboard, said monitoring of movement to facilitate provision, prior to activation of the key, an indicia of the first or the second function being associated with key, depending on whether a user's terminating hand member that will be used to activate the key is determined to be located on the user's left hand or right hand. monitor movements of at least a portion of at least one of the user's two hands toward the key to indicate, prior to an activation of the key by one of the terminating members, which one of said first function and said second function is to be associated with the activation, wherein the camera is configured to indicate that the first function is to be associated with the activation when a right-to-left movement of a terminating member of the right hand toward the key is detected and the camera is configured to indicate that the second function is to be associated with the activation when a left-to-right movement of a terminating member of the left hand toward the key is detected.

13. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 12, further comprising a processor configured to wherein said monitoring of movement comprises temporally analyzing analyze a plurality of images from said camera, wherein said images includeing positions information of at least the said-user's terminating hand members that allows determination of right-to-left or left-to-right movements.

14. (Currently Amended) An apparatus comprising:

a body;

a keyboard upon said body including a key having two different functions-associated with the key, a first function if the key is activated by a terminating hand member of a user's right hand, and a second ~~different~~ function if the key is activated by a terminating hand member of a the user's left hand; and

at least one pressure sensor configured to monitor movement of a user's terminating hand members toward the key, said monitoring of terminating hand member movement to facilitate providing an indicia of whether the first or the second function is associated with key, prior to activation of the key, depending on whether a terminating hand member that will be used to activate the key is determined to be located on the user's right hand or left hand, detect movements of at least a portion of at least one of the user's two hands toward the key to indicate, prior to an activation of the key by one of the terminating members, which one of said first function and said second function is to be associated with the activation, wherein the pressure sensor is configured to indicate that the first function is to be associated with the activation when a right-to-left movement of a terminating member of the right hand toward the key is detected and the pressure sensor is configured to indicate that the second function is to be associated with the activation when a left-to-right movement of a terminating member of the left hand toward the key is detected.

15. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 14, wherein said at least one pressure sensor configured to ~~comprises a sensor to detect an increased inward~~ pressure on a side of said body.

16. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 15, wherein the processor is configured to determine the right-to-left or left-to right movements of the user's terminating hand members based at least in part on such increased inward pressure on the side of the body, said side corresponds to said determined terminating hand member.

17. (Currently Amended) An apparatus comprising:

a body;

a keyboard upon said body including a key having two different functions-associated with the key, a first function if the key is activated by a terminating hand member of a user's right hand, and a second different-function if the key is activated by a terminating hand member of a-the user's left hand; and

a motion sensor to monitor movement of a user's terminating hand members toward the key, said monitoring of terminating hand member movement to facilitate providing an indicia of whether the first or the second function is associated with key, prior to activation of the key, depending on whether a terminating hand member that will be used to activate the key is determined to be located on the user's right hand or left hand. detect movements of at least a portion of at least one of the user's two hands toward the key to indicate, prior to an activation of the key by one of the terminating members, which one of said first function and said second function is to be associated with the activation, wherein the motion sensor is configured to indicate that the first function is to be associated with the activation when a right-to-left movement of a terminating member of the right hand toward the key is detected and the motion sensor is configured to indicate that the second function is to be associated with the activation when a left-to-right movement of a terminating member of the left hand toward the key is detected

18. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 17, wherein said motion sensor is a MicroElectroMechanical Systems (MEMS) device.

19. (Currently Amended) In an electronic device comprising a keyboard and having a plurality of input keys, including at least a first-key having associated with it at least two character values, a first character value if the first-key is activated by a terminating hand member of a user's right hand, and a second different-character value if the first-key is activated by a terminating hand member of a user's left hand, a method comprising:

determining, prior to an activation of the first-key, which one of the character values is to be associated with the activation of the key, wherein said determining includes indicating that the first character is to be associated with an activation when a right-to-left movement of a terminating member of the right hand toward the key is detected, and indicating that the

second character is to be associated with the activation when a left-to-right movement of a terminating member of the left hand toward the key is detected; whether a terminating hand member of the user moving toward the first key is located on the user's right hand or on the user's left hand; and

assigning one of said first or second character value to the said first activation of the key, based at least in part upon a result of said determining, the assigned character to be inputted upon if the activation of the first key occurs within a pre-defined period of time from since the determination said determining.

20. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 19, further comprising: determining that the period of time has elapsed and the activation of the first key has not occurred within the period of time; and assigning the other of the first or second character value to the activation of the said first key after said determining that the period of time has elapsed if no activation occurs within the pre-defined period of time since said determining.

21. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 19, wherein said determining comprises monitoring right-to-left or left-to-right movement of at least a portion of at least one of a user's two hands.

22. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 19, wherein said determining comprises temporally analyzing a plurality of images, said images including positions information of the said user's terminating hand members that allows determination of the right-to-left or left-to-right movements.